

**TUOLUMNE COUNTY**  
**CARES – (\$689,851 grant)**

The CARES (Crime Abatement and Recovery Enhancement Services) project re-establishes and expands the initiative implemented by the county during the MIOCR demonstration grant program that ended in 2004. Anchored in the Assertive Community Treatment model, the CARES project combines ongoing training for custody staff on mental health issues, thorough psycho-social assessments and detailed discharge planning with intensive, multi-agency case management and service provision upon release from custody.

A multi-disciplinary team comprised of a deputy sheriff, a mental health clinician, three case managers, and a probation officer will serve an estimated 60 offenders during the 18-month grant period. This treatment team is working closely with Tuolumne County judges, who are committed to considering the team's recommendations for incorporating treatment plans into grants of probation for mentally ill offenders. To ensure appropriate community supervision, the probation officer's caseload is dedicated exclusively to program participants. In addition, the Mobile Response Team, an around-the-clock collaborative between mental health and law enforcement, functions as an early warning system for project staff by providing a means by which they learn of mentally ill offenders who are struggling to stay out of the criminal justice system.

In addition to in-custody mental health assessments and services, project participants receive counseling, medication support and other therapeutic services upon their release. The project also provides, as needed, assistance with transportation and housing (e.g., emergency shelter, rental deposits), educational support (e.g., assistance obtaining a GED or vocational training), and assistance in securing disability entitlements.

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